

Washington State Laws Related to Water Storage
September 11, 2000

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LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

RCW 43.83B.010

Declaration.

The long-range development goals for the state of Washington must include the provision of those supportive public services necessary for the development and expansion of industry, commerce, and employment including the furnishing of an adequate supply of water for domestic, industrial, and agricultural purposes.

[1972 ex.s. c 128 § 1.]

RCW 43.99E.010

Declaration.

The long-range development goals for the state of Washington must include the provision of those supportive public services necessary for the development and expansion of industry, commerce, and employment including the furnishing of an adequate supply of water for domestic, industrial, agricultural, municipal, fishery, recreational, and other beneficial uses.

[1979 ex.s. c 234 § 1.]

Finding -- Intent--1997 c 443:

(for RCW 43.21A.064(5) Assistance to applicants)

"The legislature finds that there is a need for development of additional water resources to meet the forecasted population growth in the state. It is the intent of chapter 443, Laws of 1997 to direct the responsible agencies to assist applicants seeking a safe and reliable water source for their use.

Providing this assistance for public water supply systems can be accomplished through assistance in the creation of municipal interties and transfers, additional storage capabilities, enhanced conservation efforts, and added efficiency standards for using existing supplies."
[1997 c 443 § 1.]

Findings -- Purpose -- 1997 c 360:

(for RCW 90.03.255 Consideration of water impoundment)

"The legislature finds that in many basins in the state there is water available on a seasonal basis that is in excess of the needs of either existing water right holders or instream resources. The legislature finds that excess waters often result in significant flooding and damage to public and private resources. Further, it is in the public interest to encourage the impoundment of excess water and other measures that can be used to offset the impact of withdrawals and diversions on existing rights and instream resources. Further, in some areas of the state additional supplies of water are needed to meet the needs of a growing economy and population. The legislature finds there is a range of alternatives that offset the impacts that should be encouraged including the creation, restoration, enhancement, or enlargement of ponds, wetlands, and reservoirs and the artificial recharge of aquifers.

The purpose of this act is to foster the improvement in the water supplies available to meet the needs of the state. It is the goal of this act to strengthen the state's economy while maintaining and improving the overall quality of the state's environment."

[1997 c 360 § 1.]

RCW 90.44.460

Reservoir permits.

The legislature recognizes the importance of sound water management. In an effort to promote new and innovative methods of water storage, the legislature authorizes the department of ecology to issue reservoir permits that enable an entity to artificially store and recover water in any underground geological formation, which qualifies as a reservoir under RCW 90.03.370.

[2000 c 98 § 1.]

POLICIES

RCW 90.03.005

State water policy -- Cooperation with other agencies -- Reduction of wasteful practices.

It is the policy of the state to promote the use of the public waters in a fashion which provides for obtaining maximum net benefits arising from both diversionary uses of the state's public waters and the retention of waters within streams and lakes in sufficient quantity and quality to protect instream and natural values and rights. Consistent with this policy, the state supports economically feasible and environmentally sound development of physical facilities through the concerted efforts of the state with the United States, public corporations, Indian tribes, or other public or private entities. Further, based on the tenet of water law which precludes wasteful practices in the exercise of rights to the use of waters, the department of ecology shall reduce these practices to the maximum extent practicable, taking into account sound principles of water management, the benefits and costs of improved water use efficiency, and the most effective use of public and private funds, and, when appropriate, to work to that end in concert with the agencies of the United States and other public and private entities.

[1989 c 348 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 216 § 8.]

RCW 90.54.020

General declaration of fundamentals for utilization and management of waters of the state.

Utilization and management of the waters of the state shall be guided by the following general declaration of fundamentals:

(1) - (3) (MATERIAL OMMITTED)

(4) The development of multipurpose water storage facilities shall be a high priority for programs of water allocation, planning, management, and efficiency. The department, other state agencies, local governments, and planning units formed under *section 107 or 108 of this act shall evaluate the potential for the development of new storage projects and the benefits and effects of storage in reducing damage to stream banks and property, increasing the use of land, providing water for municipal, industrial, agricultural, power generation, and other beneficial uses, and improving stream flow regimes for fisheries and other instream uses.

(5) Adequate and safe supplies of water shall be preserved and protected in potable condition to satisfy human domestic needs.

(6) Multiple-purpose impoundment structures are to be preferred over single-purpose structures. Due regard shall be given to means and methods for protection of fishery resources in the planning for and construction of water impoundment structures and other artificial obstructions.

(7) - (10)(MATERIAL OMMITTED)

(11) Water management programs, including but not limited to, water quality, flood control, drainage, erosion control and storm runoff are deemed to be in the public interest.

[1997 c 442 § 201; 1989 c 348 § 1; 1987 c 399 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 225 § 2.]

RCW 75.20.050

Review of permit applications to divert or store water -- Water flow policy.

It is the policy of this state that a flow of water sufficient to support game fish and food fish populations be maintained at all times in the streams of this state.

The director of ecology shall give the director notice of each application for a permit to divert or store water. The director has thirty days after receiving the notice to state his or her objections to the application. The permit shall not be issued until the thirty-day period has elapsed.

The director of ecology may refuse to issue a permit if, in the opinion of the director, issuing the permit might result in lowering the flow of water in a stream below the flow necessary to adequately support food fish and game fish populations in the stream.

The provisions of this section shall in no way affect existing water rights.

[1993 sp.s. c 2 § 29; 1988 c 36 § 32; 1986 c 173 § 7; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 71; 1955 c 12 § 75.20.050. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 46; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-320.]

RCW 90.22.010

Establishment of minimum water flows or levels -- Authorized -- Purposes.

The department of ecology may establish minimum water flows or levels for streams, lakes or other public waters for the purposes of protecting fish, game, birds or other wildlife resources, or recreational or aesthetic values of said public waters whenever it appears to be in the public interest to establish the same. In addition, the department of ecology shall, when requested by the department of fish and wildlife to protect fish, game or other wildlife resources under the jurisdiction of the requesting state agency, or if the department of ecology finds it necessary to preserve water

quality, establish such minimum flows or levels as are required to protect the resource or preserve the water quality described in the request or determination. Any request submitted by the department of fish and wildlife shall include a statement setting forth the need for establishing a minimum flow or level. When the department acts to preserve water quality, it shall include a similar statement with the proposed rule filed with the code reviser. This section shall not apply to waters artificially stored in reservoirs, provided that in the granting of storage permits by the department of ecology in the future, full recognition shall be given to downstream minimum flows, if any there may be, which have theretofore been established hereunder.

[1997 c 32 § 4; 1994 c 264 § 86; 1988 c 47 § 6. Prior: 1987 c 506 § 96; 1987 c 109 § 103; 1969 ex.s. c 284 § 3.]

RCW 90.22.030

Existing water and storage rights -- Right to divert or store water.

The establishment of levels and flows pursuant to RCW 90.22.010 shall in no way affect existing water and storage rights and the use thereof, including but not limited to rights relating to the operation of any hydroelectric or water storage reservoir or related facility. No right to divert or store public waters shall be granted by the department of ecology which shall conflict with regulations adopted pursuant to RCW 90.22.010 and 90.22.020 establishing flows or levels. All regulations establishing flows or levels shall be filed in a "Minimum Water Level and Flow Register" of the department of ecology.

[1988 c 127 § 81; 1969 ex.s. c 284 § 5.]

RCW 90.54.180

Water use efficiency and conservation programs and practices.

Consistent with the fundamentals of water resource policy set forth in this chapter, state and local governments, individuals, corporations, groups and other entities shall be encouraged to carry out water use efficiency and conservation programs and practices consistent with the following:

(1) Water efficiency and conservation programs should utilize an appropriate mix of economic incentives, cost share programs, regulatory programs, and technical and public information efforts. Programs which encourage voluntary participation are preferred.

(2) Increased water use efficiency should receive consideration as a potential source of water in state and local water resource planning processes. In determining the cost-effectiveness of alternative water sources, consideration should

be given to the benefits of conservation, waste water recycling, and impoundment of waters.

(3) In determining the cost-effectiveness of alternative water sources, full consideration should be given to the benefits of storage which can reduce the damage to stream banks and property, increase the utilization of land, provide water for municipal, industrial, agricultural, and other beneficial uses, provide for the generation of electric power from renewable resources, and improve stream flow regimes for fishery and other instream uses.

(4) Entities receiving state financial assistance for construction of water source expansion or acquisition of new sources shall develop, and implement if cost-effective, a water use efficiency and conservation element of a water supply plan pursuant to RCW 43.20.230(1).

(5) State programs to improve water use efficiency should focus on those areas of the state in which water is overappropriated; areas that experience diminished streamflows or aquifer levels; and areas where projected water needs, including those for instream flows, exceed available supplies.

(6) Existing and future generations of citizens of the state of Washington should be made aware of the importance of the state's water resources and the need for wise and efficient use and development of this vital resource. In order to increase this awareness, state agencies should integrate public education on increasing water use efficiency into existing public information efforts. This effort shall be coordinated with other levels of government, including local governments and Indian tribes.

[1989 c 348 § 5.]

RCW 90.54.800

Policy guidelines.

Future development of hydropower and protection of river-related resources shall be guided by policies and programs which:

(1) Create opportunities for balanced development of cost-effective and environmentally sound hydropower projects by a range of development interests;

(2) Protect significant values associated with the state's rivers, including fish and wildlife populations and habitats, water quality and quantity, unique physical and botanical features, archeological sites, and scenic and recreational resources;

(3) Protect the interests of the citizens of the state regarding river-related economic development, municipal water supply, supply of electric energy, flood control, recreational opportunity, and environmental integrity;

(4) Fully utilize the state's authority in the federal hydropower licensing process.
[1989 c 159 § 3.]

AGENCY POWERS

RCW 43.21A.064

Powers and duties -- Water resources.

Subject to [RCW 43.21A.068](#), the director of the department of ecology shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) The supervision of public waters within the state and their appropriation, diversion, and use, and of the various officers connected therewith;

(2) Insofar as may be necessary to assure safety to life or property, the director shall inspect the construction of all dams, canals, ditches, irrigation systems, hydraulic power plants, and all other works, systems, and plants pertaining to the use of water, and may require such necessary changes in the construction or maintenance of said works, to be made from time to time, as will reasonably secure safety to life and property;

(3) The director shall regulate and control the diversion of water in accordance with the rights thereto;

(4) The director shall determine the discharge of streams and springs and other sources of water supply, and the capacities of lakes and of reservoirs whose waters are being or may be utilized for beneficial purposes;

(5) The director shall, if requested, provide assistance to an applicant for a water right in obtaining or developing an adequate and appropriate supply of water consistent with the land use permitted for the area in which the water is to be used and the population forecast for the area under [RCW 43.62.035](#). If the applicant is a public water supply system, the supply being sought must be used in a manner consistent with applicable land use, watershed and water system plans, and the population forecast for that area provided under [RCW 43.62.035](#);

(6) (MATERIAL OMITTED)

(7) The director shall render when required by the governor, a full written report of the office's work with such recommendations for legislation as the director deems advisable for the better control and development of the water resources of the state;

(8) - (10) (MATERIAL OMITTED)

[1997 c 443 § 2; 1995 c 8 § 3; 1977 c 75 § 46; 1965 c 8 § [43.21.130](#). Prior: 1961 c 19 § 1; prior: (i) 1951 c 57 § 3; 1921 c 7 § 72; RRS § 10830. (ii) 1951 c 57 § 3; 1917 c 117 § 8; RRS § 7358. Formerly [RCW 43.21.130](#).]

RCW 43.21A.069

Powers and duties -- Flood control.

The department of ecology shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties prescribed by law with respect to flood control.

RCW 43.27A.090

Powers and duties of department.

The department shall be empowered as follows:

(1) To represent the state at, and fully participate in, the activities of any basin or regional commission, interagency committee, or any other joint interstate or federal-state agency, committee or commission, or publicly financed entity engaged in the planning, development, administration, management, conservation or preservation of the water resources of the state.

(2) To prepare the views and recommendations of the state of Washington on any project, plan or program relating to the planning, development, administration, management, conservation and preservation of any waters located in or affecting the state of Washington, including any federal permit or license proposal, and appear on behalf of, and present views and recommendations of the state at any proceeding, negotiation or hearing conducted by the federal government, interstate agency, state or other agency.

(3) To cooperate with, assist, advise and coordinate plans with the federal government and its officers and agencies, and serve as a state liaison agency with the federal government in matters relating to the use, conservation, preservation, quality, disposal or control of water and activities related thereto.

(4) To cooperate with appropriate agencies of the federal government and/or agencies of other states, to enter into contracts, and to make appropriate contributions to federal or interstate projects and programs and governmental bodies to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(5) To apply for, accept, administer and expend grants, gifts and loans from the federal government or any other entity to carry out the purposes of this chapter and make contracts and do such other acts as are necessary insofar as they are not inconsistent with other provisions hereof.

(6) To develop and maintain a coordinated and comprehensive state water and water resources related development plan, and adopt, with regard to such plan, such policies as are necessary to insure that the waters of the state are used, conserved and preserved for the best interest of the state. There shall be included in the state plan a description of developmental objectives and a statement of the recommended means of accomplishing these objectives. To the extent the director deems

desirable, the plan shall integrate into the state plan, the plans, programs, reports, research and studies of other state agencies.

(7) To assemble and correlate information relating to water supply, power development, irrigation, watersheds, water use, future possibilities of water use and prospective demands for all purposes served through or affected by water resources development.

(8) To assemble and correlate state, local and federal laws, regulations, plans, programs and policies affecting the beneficial use, disposal, pollution, control or conservation of water, river basin development, flood prevention, parks, reservations, forests, wildlife refuges, drainage and sanitary systems, waste disposal, water works, watershed protection and development, soil conservation, power facilities and area and municipal water supply needs, and recommend suitable legislation or other action to the legislature, the congress of the United States, or any city, municipality, or to responsible state, local or federal executive departments or agencies.

(9) To cooperate with federal, state, regional, interstate and local public and private agencies in the making of plans for drainage, flood control, use, conservation, allocation and distribution of existing water supplies and the development of new water resource projects.

(MATERIAL OMITTED)

[1988 c 127 § 25; 1967 c 242 § 9.]

RCW 86.16.025

Authority of department.

(for the department of ecology)

Subject to RCW 43.21A.068, with respect to such features as may affect flood conditions, the department shall have authority to examine, approve or reject designs and plans for any structure or works, public or private, to be erected or built or to be reconstructed or modified upon the banks or in or over the channel or over and across the floodway of any stream or body of water in this state.

[1995 c 8 § 4; 1989 c 64 § 2; 1987 c 109 § 50; 1939 c 85 § 1; 1935 c 159 § 6; RRS § 9663A-6. Formerly RCW 86.16.020, part.]

RCW 86.16.035

Department of ecology -- Control of dams and obstructions.

Subject to RCW 43.21A.068, the department of ecology shall have supervision and control over all dams and obstructions in streams, and may make reasonable regulations with respect thereto concerning the flow of water which he deems necessary

for the protection to life and property below such works from flood waters.

[1995 c 8 § 5. Prior: 1987 c 523 § 9; 1987 c 109 § 53; 1935 c 159 § 8; RRS § 9663A-8. Formerly RCW 86.16.030, part.]

RCW 90.54.100

Department to evaluate needs for projects and alternative methods of financing.

The department of ecology shall as a matter of high priority evaluate the needs for water resource development projects and the alternative methods of financing of the same by public and private agencies, including financing by federal, state and local governments and combinations thereof. Such evaluations shall be broadly based and be included as a part of the comprehensive state water resources program relating to uses and management as defined in RCW 90.54.030.

[1997 c 32 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 225 § 11.]

RCW 90.54.160

Department to report on dam safety.

The department of ecology shall report to the legislature on the last working day of December of 1984, 1985, and 1986, and thereafter as deemed appropriate by the department, on dam facilities that exhibit safety deficiencies sufficient to pose a significant threat to the safety of life and property. The report shall identify the owner or owners of such facilities, detail the owner's ability and attitude towards correcting such deficiencies, and provide an estimate of the cost of correcting the deficiencies if a study has been completed.

[1984 c 83 § 1.]

RCW 90.38.020

Acquisition of trust water rights.

(1) The department may acquire water rights, including but not limited to storage rights, by purchase, gift, or other appropriate means other than by condemnation, from any person or entity or combination of persons or entities. Once acquired, such rights are trust water rights.

(2) The department may make such other arrangements, including entry into contracts with other persons or entities as appropriate to ensure that trust water rights acquired in accordance with this chapter can be exercised to the fullest possible extent.

(3) The trust water rights may be acquired on a temporary or permanent basis.

[1989 c 429 § 3.]

RCW 43.20.050

Powers and duties of state board of health -- State public health report -- Delegation of authority -- Enforcement of rules.

(1) (MATERIAL OMMITTED)

(2) In order to protect public health, the state board of health shall:

(a) Adopt rules necessary to assure safe and reliable public drinking water and to protect the public health. Such rules shall establish requirements regarding:

(i) The design and construction of public water system facilities, including proper sizing of pipes and storage for the number and type of customers;

(ii) Drinking water quality standards, monitoring requirements, and laboratory certification requirements;

(iii) Public water system management and reporting requirements;

(iv) Public water system planning and emergency response requirements;

(v) Public water system operation and maintenance requirements;

(vi) Water quality, reliability, and management of existing but inadequate public water systems; and

(vii) Quality standards for the source or supply, or both source and supply, of water for bottled water plants.

(b) - (f) (MATERIAL OMMITTED)]

(3) The state board may delegate any of its rule-adopting authority to the secretary and rescind such delegated authority.

(4) All local boards of health, health authorities and officials, officers of state institutions, police officers, sheriffs, constables, and all other officers and employees of the state, or any county, city, or township thereof, shall enforce all rules adopted by the state board of health. In the event of failure or refusal on the part of any member of such boards or any other official or person mentioned in this section to so act, he shall be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars, upon first conviction, and not less than one hundred dollars upon second conviction.

(5) (MATERIAL OMMITTED)

[1993 c 492 § 489; 1992 c 34 § 4. Prior: 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 210; 1989 c 207 § 1; 1985 c 213 § 1; 1979 c 141 § 49; 1967 ex.s. c 102 § 9; 1965 c 8 § 43.20.050; prior: (i) 1901 c 116 § 1; 1891 c 98 § 2; RRS § 6001. (ii) 1921 c 7 § 58; RRS § 10816.]

RCW 43.70.130

Powers and duties of secretary -- General.

The secretary of health shall:

(1) - (8) (MATERIAL OMITTED)

(9) Review and approve plans for public water system design, engineering, operation, maintenance, financing, and emergency response, as required under state board of health rules;

(10) - (11) (MATERIAL OMITTED)

[1990 c 132 § 2; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 251; 1985 c 213 § 2; 1979 c 141 § 46; 1967 ex.s. c 102 § 1; 1965 c 8 § [43.20.010](#). Prior: (i) 1909 c 208 § 2; RRS § 6004. (ii) 1921 c 7 § 59; RRS § 10817. Formerly [RCW 43.20A.600](#) and [43.20.010](#).]

RCW 87.03.140

Board's powers and duties generally -- Condemnation procedure.

The board, and its agents and employees, shall have the right to enter upon any land to make surveys, and may locate the necessary irrigation or drainage works, power plants, power sites or power lines and the line for any canal or canals, and the necessary branches of laterals for the same, on any lands which may be deemed best for such location. Said board shall also have the power to acquire, either by purchase or condemnation, or other legal means, all lands, waters, water rights, and other property necessary for the construction, use, supply, maintenance, repair and improvements of said canal or canals and irrigation and drainage works, including canals and works constructed or being constructed by private owners, or any other person, lands for reservoirs for the storage of needful waters and all necessary appurtenances. The board may also construct the necessary dams, reservoirs and works for the collection of water for the said district, and may enter into contracts for a water supply to be delivered to the canals and works of the district, and do any and every lawful act necessary to be done in order to carry out the purposes of this act; and in carrying out the aforesaid purposes the bonds of the district may be used by the board, at not less than ninety percent of their par value in payment. The board may enter into any obligation or contract with the United States or with the state of Washington for the supervision of the construction, for the construction, reconstruction, betterment, extension, sale or purchase, or operation and maintenance of the necessary works for the delivery and distribution of water therefrom under the provisions of the state reclamation act, or under the provisions of the federal reclamation act, and all amendments or extensions thereof, and the rules and regulations established thereunder, or it may contract with the United States for a water supply or for reclamation purposes in general under any act of congress which, for the purposes of this act, shall be deemed to include any act of congress for reclamation purposes heretofore or

hereafter enacted providing for and permitting such contract, or for the collection of money due or to become due to the United States, or for the assumption of the control and management of the works; and in case contract has been or may hereafter be made with the United States, as herein provided, bonds of the district may be deposited with the United States as payment or as security for future payment at not less than ninety percent of their par value, the interest on said bonds to be provided for by assessment and levy as in the case of other bonds of the district, and regularly paid to the United States to be applied as provided in such contract, and if bonds of the district are not so deposited, it shall be the duty of the board of directors to include as part of any levy or assessment provided in [RCW 87.03.260](#) an amount sufficient to meet each year all payments accruing under the terms of any such contract. The board may accept on behalf of the district appointment of the district as fiscal agent of the United States or the state of Washington or other authorization of the district by the United States or the state of Washington to make collections of money for or on behalf of the United States or the state of Washington in connection with any federal or other reclamation project, whereupon the district, and the county treasurer for the district, shall be authorized to so act and to assume the duties and liability incident to such action, and the said board shall have full power to do any and all things required by the federal statutes now or hereafter enacted in connection therewith, and all things required by the rules and regulations now or that may hereafter be established by any department of the federal government in regard thereto.

The use of all water required for the irrigation of the lands within any district, together with rights-of-way for canals, laterals, ditches, sites for reservoirs, power plants, sites, and lines, and all other property required in fully carrying out the purposes of the organization of the district is hereby declared to be a public use; and in condemnation proceedings to acquire any property or property rights for the use of the district, the board of directors shall proceed in the name of the district, in the manner provided in this state in cases of appropriation of lands, real estate and other property by private corporations: PROVIDED, That the irrigation district, at its option, pursuant to resolution to that end duly passed by its board of directors may unite in a single action proceedings for the acquisition and condemnation of different tracts of land needed by it for rights-of-way for canals, laterals, power plants, sites, and lines and other irrigation works which are held by separate owners. And the court may, on the motion of any party, consolidate into a single action separate suits for the

condemnation of rights-of-way for such irrigation works whenever from motives of economy or the expediting of business it appears desirable so to do: PROVIDED FURTHER, That there shall be a separate finding of the court or jury as to each tract held in separate ownership.

In any condemnation proceeding brought under the provisions of this act to acquire canals, laterals and ditches and rights-of-way therefor, sites, reservoirs, power plants and pumping plants and sites therefor, power canals, transmission lines, electrical equipment and any other property, and if the owner or owners thereof or their predecessors shall have issued contracts or deeds agreeing to deliver to the holders of said contracts or deeds water for irrigation purposes, or authorizing the holders thereof to take or receive water for irrigation purposes from any portion of said property or works, and if the delivery of said water or the right to take or receive the same shall in any manner constitute a charge upon, or a right in the property and works sought to be acquired, or any portion thereof, the district shall be authorized to institute and maintain said condemnation proceedings for the purpose of acquiring said property and works, and the interest of the owners therein subject to the rights of the holders of such contracts or deeds, and the court or jury making the award shall determine and award to such owner or owners the value of the interest to be so appropriated in said condemnation proceedings.

[1921 c 129 § 6; 1919 c 180 § 5; 1915 c 179 § 5; 1913 c 165 § 6; 1913 c 13 § 1; 1889-90 p 678 § 12; RRS § 7429. Formerly [RCW 87.01.210](#), part and [87.08.080](#).]

RCW 87.84.061

Directors -- Additional powers.

The water in any natural or impounded lake, wholly or partially within the boundaries of an irrigation and rehabilitation district, together with all use of said water and the bottom and shore lines to the line established by the highest level where water has been or shall be stored in said lake, shall be regulated, controlled and used by the irrigation and rehabilitation district in order to further the health, safety, recreation and welfare of the residents in the district and the citizens and guests of the state of Washington, subject to rights of the United States bureau of reclamation and any irrigation districts organized under the laws of the state of Washington.

In addition to the powers expressly or impliedly enumerated above, the directors of an irrigation and rehabilitation district shall have the power and authority to:

- (1) - (6) (MATERIAL OMITTED)

(7) Except for state highways, construct, maintain, place, and/or restore roads, buildings, docks, dams, canals, locks, mechanical lifts or any other type of transportation facility; dredge, purchase land, or lease land, or enter into agreements with other agencies or conduct any other activity within or without the district boundaries in order to carry out district projects or activities to further the recreational potential of the area.

[1994 c 264 § 79; 1988 c 127 § 69; 1979 c 141 § 383; 1963 c 221 § 5.]

RCW 89.08.220

Corporate status and powers of district.

A conservation district organized under the provisions of chapter 184, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. shall constitute a governmental subdivision of this state, and a public body corporate and politic exercising public powers, but shall not levy taxes or issue bonds and such district, and the supervisors thereof, shall have the following powers, in addition to others granted in other sections of chapter 184, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess.:

(1) - (6) (MATERIAL OMITTED)

(7) To prepare and keep current a comprehensive long-range program recommending the conservation of all the renewable natural resources of the district. Such programs shall be directed toward the best use of renewable natural resources and in a manner that will best meet the needs of the district and the state, taking into consideration, where appropriate, such uses as farming, grazing, timber supply, forest, parks, outdoor recreation, potable water supplies for urban and rural areas, water for agriculture, minimal flow, and industrial uses, watershed stabilization, control of soil erosion, retardation of water run-off, flood prevention and control, reservoirs and other water storage, restriction of developments of flood plains, protection of open space and scenery, preservation of natural beauty, protection of fish and wildlife, preservation of wilderness areas and wild rivers, the prevention or reduction of sedimentation and other pollution in rivers and other waters, and such location of highways, schools, housing developments, industries, airports and other facilities and structures as will fit the needs of the state and be consistent with the best uses of the renewable natural resources of the state. The program shall include an inventory of all renewable natural resources in the district, a compilation of current resource needs, projections of future resource requirements, priorities for various resource activities, projected timetables, descriptions

of available alternatives, and provisions for coordination with other resource programs.

The district shall also prepare an annual work plan, which shall describe the action programs, services, facilities, materials, working arrangements and estimated funds needed to carry out the parts of the long-range programs that are of the highest priorities.

The districts shall hold public hearings at appropriate times in connection with the preparation of programs and plans, shall give careful consideration to the views expressed and problems revealed in hearings, and shall keep the public informed concerning their programs, plans, and activities. Occupiers of land shall be invited to submit proposals for consideration to such hearings. The districts may supplement such hearings with meetings, referenda and other suitable means to determine the wishes of interested parties and the general public in regard to current and proposed plans and programs of a district. They shall confer with public and private agencies, individually and in groups, to give and obtain information and understanding of the impact of district operations upon agriculture, forestry, water supply and quality, flood control, particular industries, commercial concerns and other public and private interests, both rural and urban. Each district shall submit to the commission its proposed long-range program and annual work plans for review and comment.

The long-range renewable natural resource program, together with the supplemental annual work plans, developed by each district under the foregoing procedures shall have official status as the authorized program of the district, and it shall be published by the districts as its "renewable resources program". Copies shall be made available by the districts to the appropriate counties, municipalities, special purpose districts and state agencies, and shall be made available in convenient places for examination by public land occupier or private interest concerned. Summaries of the program and selected material therefrom shall be distributed as widely as feasible for public information;

(8) - (14) (MATERIAL OMITTED)

[1999 c 305 § 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 184 § 23; 1963 c 110 § 1; 1961 c 240 § 13; 1955 c 304 § 23. Prior: (i) 1939 c 187 § 8; RRS § 10726-8. (ii) 1939 c 187 § 13; RRS § 10726-13.]

RCW 90.40.010

Eminent domain by the United States.

The United States is hereby granted the right to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire the right to the use of any water, to acquire or extinguish any rights, and to acquire any

lands or other property, for the construction, operation, repairs to, maintenance or control of any plant or system of works for the storage, conveyance, or use of water for irrigation purposes, and whether such water, rights, lands or other property so to be acquired belong to any private party, association, corporation or to the state of Washington, or any municipality thereof; and such power of eminent domain shall be exercised under and by the same procedure as now is or may be hereafter provided by the law of this state for the exercise of the right of eminent domain by ordinary railroad corporations, except that the United States may exercise such right in the proper court of the United States as well as the proper state court.

[1905 c 88 § 1; RRS § 7408.]

RCW 90.40.020

Right to use water courses.

The United States shall have the right to turn into any natural or artificial water course, any water that it may have acquired the right to store, divert, or store and divert, and may again divert and reclaim said waters from said water course for irrigation purposes subject to existing rights.

[1905 c 88 § 2; RRS § 7409.]

RCW 90.40.040

Appropriation of water -- Title to beds and shores.

Whenever said secretary of the interior or other duly authorized officer of the United States shall cause to be let a contract for the construction of any irrigation works or any works for the storage of water for use in irrigation, or any portion or section thereof, for which the withdrawal has been effected as provided in [RCW 90.40.030](#), any authorized officer of the United States, either in the name of the United States or in such name as may be determined by the secretary of the interior, may appropriate, in behalf of the United States, so much of the unappropriated waters of the state as may be required for the project, or projects, for which water has been withdrawn or reserved under [RCW 90.40.030](#), including any and all divisions thereof, theretofore constructed, in whole or in part, by the United States or proposed to be thereafter constructed by the United States, such appropriation to be made, maintained and perfected in the same manner and to the same extent as though such appropriation had been made by a private person, corporation or association, except that the date of priority as to all rights under such appropriation in behalf of the United States shall relate back to the date of the first withdrawal or reservation of the waters so appropriated, and in case of

filings on water previously withdrawn under [RCW 90.40.030](#), no payment of fees will be required. Such appropriation by or on behalf of the United States shall inure to the United States, and its successors in interest, in the same manner and to the same extent as though said appropriation had been made by a private person, corporation or association. The title to the beds and shores of any navigable lake or stream utilized by the construction of any reservoir or other irrigation works created or constructed as a part of such appropriation hereinbefore in this section provided for, shall vest in the United States to the extent necessary for the maintenance, operation and control of such reservoir or other irrigation works.

[1929 c 95 § 1; 1905 c 88 § 4; RRS § 7411.]

PLANNING AUTHORITIES

RCW 43.21A.350

Master plan of development.

The department of ecology shall prepare and perfect from time to time a state master plan for flood control, state public reservations, financed in whole or in part from moneys collected by the state, sites for state public buildings and for the orderly development of the natural and agricultural resources of the state. The plan shall address how the department will expedite the completion of industrial projects of state-wide significance. The plan shall be a guide in making recommendations to the officers, boards, commissions, and departments of the state.

Whenever an improvement is proposed to be established by the state, the state agency having charge of the establishment thereof shall request of the director a report thereon, which shall be furnished within a reasonable time thereafter. In case an improvement is not established in conformity with the report, the state agency having charge of the establishment thereof shall file in its office and with the department a statement setting forth its reasons for rejecting or varying from such report which shall be open to public inspection.

The department shall insofar as possible secure the cooperation of adjacent states, and of counties and municipalities within the state in the coordination of their proposed improvements with such master plan.

[1997 c 369 § 6; 1987 c 109 § 29; 1965 c 8 § 43.21.190. Prior: 1957 c 215 § 22; 1933 ex.s. c 54 § 3; RRS § 10930-3. Formerly RCW 43.21.190.]

RCW 70.116.030

Definitions.

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms when used in this chapter shall be defined as follows:

(1) "Coordinated water system plan" means a plan for public water systems within a critical water supply service area which identifies the present and future needs of the systems and sets forth means for meeting those needs in the most efficient manner possible. Such a plan shall include provisions for subsequently updating the plan. In areas where more than one water system exists, a coordinated plan may consist of either: (a) A new plan developed for the area following its designation as a critical water supply service area; or (b) a compilation of compatible water system plans existing at the time of such designation and containing such supplementary provisions as are necessary to satisfy the requirements of this chapter. Any such coordinated

plan must include provisions regarding: Future service area designations; assessment of the feasibility of shared source, transmission, and storage facilities; emergency inter-ties; design standards; and other concerns related to the construction and operation of the water system facilities.

(2) "Critical water supply service area" means a geographical area which is characterized by a proliferation of small, inadequate water systems, or by water supply problems which threaten the present or future water quality or reliability of service in such a manner that efficient and orderly development may best be achieved through coordinated planning by the water utilities in the area.

(3) "Public water system" means any system providing water intended for, or used for, human consumption or other domestic uses. It includes, but is not limited to, the source, treatment for purifying purposes only, storage, transmission, pumping, and distribution facilities where water is furnished to any community, or number of individuals, or is made available to the public for human consumption or domestic use, but excluding water systems serving one single family residence. However, systems existing on September 21, 1977 which are owner operated and serve less than ten single family residences or which serve only one industrial plant shall be excluded from this definition and the provisions of this chapter.

(4) - (6) (MATERIAL OMMITTED)
[1991 c 3 § 366; 1977 ex.s. c 142 § 3.]

RCW 90.82.070

Water quantity component.

Watershed planning under this chapter shall address water quantity in the management area by undertaking an assessment of water supply and use in the management area and developing strategies for future use.

(1) The assessment shall include:

(a) An estimate of the surface and ground water present in the management area;

(b) An estimate of the surface and ground water available in the management area, taking into account seasonal and other variations;

(c) An estimate of the water in the management area represented by claims in the water rights claims registry, water use permits, certificated rights, existing minimum instream flow rules, federally reserved rights, and any other rights to water;

(d) An estimate of the surface and ground water actually being used in the management area;

(e) An estimate of the water needed in the future for use in the management area;

(f) An identification of the location of areas where aquifers are known to recharge surface bodies of water and areas known to provide for the recharge of aquifers from the surface; and

(g) An estimate of the surface and ground water available for further appropriation, taking into account the minimum instream flows adopted by rule or to be adopted by rule under this chapter for streams in the management area including the data necessary to evaluate necessary flows for fish.

(2) Strategies for increasing water supplies in the management area, which may include, but are not limited to, increasing water supplies through water conservation, water reuse, the use of reclaimed water, voluntary water transfers, aquifer recharge and recovery, additional water allocations, or additional water storage and water storage enhancements. The objective of these strategies is to supply water in sufficient quantities to satisfy the minimum instream flows for fish and to provide water for future out-of-stream uses for water identified in subsection (1)(e) and (g) of this section and to ensure that adequate water supplies are available for agriculture, energy production, and population and economic growth under the requirements of the state's growth management act, chapter 36.70A RCW. These strategies, in and of themselves, shall not be construed to confer new water rights. The watershed plan must address the strategies required under this subsection.
[1998 c 247 § 3.]

RCW 36.70A.020

Planning goals.

The following goals are adopted to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations of those counties and cities that are required or choose to plan under [RCW 36.70A.040](#). The following goals are not listed in order of priority and shall be used exclusively for the purpose of guiding the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations:

(1) - (9) (MATERIAL OMMITTED)

(10) Environment. Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

(11) - (12) (MATERIAL OMMITTED)

[1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 2.]

RIGHTS

RCW 90.03.040

Eminent domain -- Use of water declared public use.

The beneficial use of water is hereby declared to be a public use, and any person may exercise the right of eminent domain to acquire any property or rights now or hereafter existing when found necessary for the storage of water for, or the application of water to, any beneficial use, including the right to enlarge existing structures employed for the public purposes mentioned in this chapter and use the same in common with the former owner, and including the right and power to condemn an inferior use of water for a superior use. In condemnation proceedings the court shall determine what use will be for the greatest public benefit, and that use shall be deemed a superior one: PROVIDED, That no property right in water or the use of water shall be acquired hereunder by condemnation for irrigation purposes, which shall deprive any person of such quantity of water as may be reasonably necessary for the irrigation of his land then under irrigation to the full extent of the soil, by the most economical method of artificial irrigation applicable to such land according to the usual methods of artificial irrigation employed in the vicinity where such land is situated. In any case, the court shall determine what is the most economical method of irrigation. Such property or rights shall be acquired in the manner provided by law for the taking of private property for public use by private corporations.

[1917 c 117 § 4; RRS § 7354. Formerly RCW 90.04.030.]

RCW 90.16.020

Appropriation for industrial purposes.

Any person or persons, or company now incorporated, or that may hereafter become incorporated under the laws of this state, for the purpose of mining or manufacturing, shall have the right to purchase or appropriate and take possession of and divert from its natural channel, and use and hold the waters of any river, creek or stream in this state that may be required for the mining and manufacturing purposes of any such person or persons, corporation or corporations, and to construct all dams, canals, reservoirs, ditches, pipes, flumes and aqueducts, suitable and necessary for the controlling, directing and running such waters to their mines or manufacturing establishments of any such person or persons, corporation or corporations, where the same may be intended to be utilized for such purposes: PROVIDED, That no such appropriation or diversion of the waters of any such river, creek, or stream, from its natural channel; nor shall any such dam, canal, reservoir, ditch, pipe, flume or aqueduct, be

constructed to the detriment of any person or persons, corporation or corporations, occupying the lands or being located below the point or place of such appropriation or diversion on any such stream or its tributaries, or above or below such dam, canal, reservoir, ditch, pipe, flume or aqueduct, or of the owners of the lands, through which the waters run in the natural course for the deprivation of the same, or the owners of the land through or upon which such dam, canal, reservoirs, ditch, pipe, flume or aqueduct, may pass through or over, or be situated upon, unless just and adequate compensation be previously ascertained and paid therefor. [Code 1881 Bagley's Supp. p 36 § 1; 1879 p 124 § 1; RRS § 11575.]

RCW 90.28.170

Dams across streams.

There is hereby granted to persons, firms and corporations organized among other things, for irrigation and power purposes, the right to construct and maintain dams and works incident thereto over, upon and across the beds of the rivers of the state of Washington in connection with such power and irrigation purposes, and there is hereby granted to such persons, firms and corporations an easement over, upon and across the beds of such rivers for such purposes. Such easement shall be limited however, to so much of the beds of such rivers as may be reasonably convenient and necessary for such uses. All such dams and works shall be completed within five years after the commencement of construction work upon the same. The rights and privileges granted by this section shall inure to the benefit of such persons, firms or corporations from the date of the commencement of construction work upon such dams and works incident thereto, and such construction work shall be diligently prosecuted to completion, and the rights, privileges and easements granted by this section shall continue so long as the same shall be utilized by the grantees for the purposes herein specified, and the failure to maintain and use such dams and works after the same shall have been constructed, for a continuous period of two years, shall operate as a forfeiture of all the rights hereby granted and the same shall revert to the state of Washington: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall be construed in such a way as to interfere with the use of said rivers for navigation purposes, and all of such rights, privileges and easements granted hereby shall be subject to the paramount control of such rivers for navigation purposes by the United States: AND, PROVIDED FURTHER, That the use and enjoyment of the grants and privileges of this section shall not interfere with the lawful and rightful diversion of the waters of said

rivers by other parties under water appropriations in existence at the time any such persons, firms or corporations shall avail themselves of the benefits and privileges of this section, but no such persons, firms or corporations shall have any right to construct any such dams or works over, upon or across the land between ordinary high water and extreme low water of any river of this state without first having acquired the right to do so from the owner or owners of the lands adjoining the land between ordinary high water and extreme low water over or across which said dam or works are constructed.
[1911 c 95 § 1; RRS § 7416.]

RCW 90.44.130

Priorities as between appropriators -- Department in charge of ground water withdrawals -- Establishment and modification of ground water areas and depth zones -- Declarations by claimant of artificially stored water.

(MATERIAL OMMITTED)

Within ninety days after the designation of a ground water area, sub-area or zone as herein provided, any person, firm or corporation then claiming to be the owner of artificially stored ground water within such area, sub-area, or zone shall file a certified declaration to that effect with the department on a form prescribed by the department. Such declaration shall cover: (1) The location and description of the works by whose operation such artificial ground water storage is purported to have been created, and the name or names of the owner or owners thereof; (2) a description of the lands purported to be underlain by such artificially stored ground water, and the name or names of the owner or owners thereof; (3) the amount of such water claimed; (4) the date or approximate date of the earliest artificial storage; (5) evidence competent to show that the water claimed is in fact water that would have been dissipated naturally except for artificial improvements by the claimant; and (6) such additional factual information as reasonably may be required by the department. If any of the purported artificially stored ground water has been or then is being withdrawn, the claimant also shall file (1) the declarations which this chapter requires of claimants to a vested right to withdraw public ground waters, and (2) evidence competent to show that none of the water withdrawn under those declarations is in fact public ground water from the area, sub-area, or zone concerned: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in case of failure to file a declaration within the ninety-day period herein provided, the claimant may apply to the department for a reasonable extension of time, which shall not exceed two additional years and which shall be granted only upon a showing of good cause for such failure.

Following publication of the declaration and findings -- as in the case of an original application, permit, or certificate of right to appropriate public ground waters -- the department shall accept or reject such declaration or declarations with respect to ownership or withdrawal of artificially stored ground water. Acceptance of such declaration or declarations by the department shall convey to the declarant no right to withdraw public ground waters from the particular area, sub-area, or zone, nor to impair existing or subsequent rights to such public waters.

Any person, firm or corporation hereafter claiming to be the owner of ground water within a designated ground water area, sub-area, or zone by virtue of its artificial storage subsequent to such designation shall, within three years following the earliest artificial storage file a declaration of claim with the department, as herein prescribed for claims based on artificial storage prior to such designation: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in case of such failure the claimant may apply to the department for a reasonable extension of time, which shall not exceed two additional years and which shall be granted upon a showing of good cause for such failure.

Any person, firm or corporation hereafter withdrawing ground water claimed to be owned by virtue of artificial storage subsequent to designation of the relevant ground water area, sub-area, or zone shall, within ninety days following the earliest such withdrawal, file with the department the declarations required by this chapter with respect to withdrawals of public ground water.

[1987 c 109 § 116; 1947 c 122 § 4; 1945 c 263 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7400-12. Formerly RCW 90.44.130 through 90.44.170.]

RCW 90.54.900

Certain rights, authority, not to be affected by chapter.

Nothing in this chapter shall affect any existing water rights, riparian, appropriative, or otherwise; nor shall it affect existing rights relating to the operation of any hydroelectric or water storage reservoir or related facility; nor shall it affect any exploratory work, construction or operation of a thermal power plant by an electric utility in accordance with the provisions of chapter 80.50 RCW. Nothing in this chapter shall enlarge or reduce the department of ecology's authority to regulate the surface use of waters of this state or structures on the underlying beds, tidelands or shorelands.

[1971 ex.s. c 225 § 9.]

RCW 90.54.920

Rights not impaired.

(relates only to the 1989 amendments to RCW 90.54.020)

(1) Nothing in this act shall affect or operate to impair any existing water rights.

(2) Nothing in this act shall be used to prevent future storage options, recognizing that storage may be necessary as a method of conserving water to meet both instream and out-of-stream needs.

(3) Nothing in this act shall infringe upon the rate-making prerogatives of any public water purveyor.

(4) Nothing in this act shall preclude the joint select committee on water resource policy from reviewing any subject matter contained herein for any future modifications.

[1989 c 348 § 3.]

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

RCW 90.03.400

Crimes against water code -- Unauthorized use of water.

The unauthorized use of water to which another person is entitled or the wilful or negligent waste of water to the detriment of another, shall be a misdemeanor. The possession or use of water without legal right shall be prima facie evidence of the guilt of the person using it. It shall also be a misdemeanor to use, store or divert any water until after the issuance of permit to appropriate such water.

[1917 c 117 § 40; RRS § 7392. Formerly [RCW 90.32.010.](#)]

RCW 43.21A.068

Federal power act licensees -- Exemption from state requirements.

(1) With respect to the safety of any dam, canal, ditch, hydraulic power plant, reservoir, project, or other work, system, or plant that requires a license under the federal power act, no licensee shall be required to:

(a) Submit proposals, plans, specifications, or other documents for approval by the department;

(b) Seek a permit, license, or other form, permission, or authorization from the department;

(c) Submit to inspection by the department; or

(d) Change the design, construction, modification, maintenance, or operation of such facilities at the demand of the department.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "licensee" means an owner or operator, or any employee thereof, of a dam, canal, ditch, hydraulic power plant, reservoir, project, or other work, system, or plant that requires a license under the federal power act.

RCW 90.03.255

Applications for water right, transfer, or change -- Consideration of water impoundment or other resource management technique.

The department shall, when evaluating an application for a water right, transfer, or change filed pursuant to RCW 90.03.250 or 90.03.380 that includes provision for any water impoundment or other resource management technique, take into consideration the benefits and costs, including environmental effects, of any water impoundment or other resource management technique that is included as a component of the application. The department's consideration shall extend to any increased water supply that results from the impoundment or other resource management

technique, including but not limited to any recharge of ground water that may occur, as a means of making water available or otherwise offsetting the impact of the diversion of surface water proposed in the application for the water right, transfer, or change. Provision for an impoundment or other resource management technique in an application shall be made solely at the discretion of the applicant and shall not otherwise be made by the department as a condition for approving an application that does not include such provision.

This section does not lessen, enlarge, or modify the rights of any riparian owner, or any existing water right acquired by appropriation or otherwise.

[1997 c 360 § 2; 1996 c 306 § 1.]

RCW 90.44.055

Applications for water right or amendment -- Consideration of water impoundment or other resource management technique.

The department shall, when evaluating an application for a water right or an amendment filed pursuant to RCW 90.44.050 or 90.44.100 that includes provision for any water impoundment or other resource management technique, take into consideration the benefits and costs, including environmental effects, of any water impoundment or other resource management technique that is included as a component of the application. The department's consideration shall extend to any increased water supply that results from the impoundment or other resource management technique, including but not limited to any recharge of ground water that may occur, as a means of making water available or otherwise offsetting the impact of the withdrawal of ground water proposed in the application for the water right or amendment in the same water resource inventory area. Provision for an impoundment or other resource management technique in an application shall be made solely at the discretion of the applicant and shall not be made by the department as a condition for approving an application that does not include such provision.

This section does not lessen, enlarge, or modify the rights of any riparian owner, or any existing water right acquired by appropriation or otherwise.

[1997 c 360 § 3; 1996 c 306 § 2.]

RCW 90.03.260

Appropriation procedure -- Application -- Contents.

Each application for permit to appropriate water shall set forth the name and post office address of the applicant, the source of water supply, the nature and amount of the proposed use, the time during which water will be required each year, the location

and description of the proposed ditch, canal, or other work, the time within which the completion of the construction and the time for the complete application of the water to the proposed use. If for agricultural purposes, it shall give the legal subdivision of the land and the acreage to be irrigated, as near as may be, and the amount of water expressed in acre feet to be supplied per season. If for power purposes, it shall give the nature of the works by means of which the power is to be developed, the head and amount of water to be utilized, and the uses to which the power is to be applied. If for construction of a reservoir, it shall give the height of the dam, the capacity of the reservoir, and the uses to be made of the impounded waters. If for municipal water supply, it shall give the present population to be served, and, as near as may be, the future requirement of the municipality. If for mining purposes, it shall give the nature of the mines to be served and the method of supplying and utilizing the water; also their location by legal subdivisions. All applications shall be accompanied by such maps and drawings, in duplicate, and such other data, as may be required by the department, and such accompanying data shall be considered as a part of the application.
[1987 c 109 § 84; 1917 c 117 § 28; RRS § 7379. Formerly RCW 90.20.020.]

RCW 90.03.350

Construction or modification of storage dam -- Plans and specifications -- Additional dam safety inspection requirements for metals mining and milling operations.

Except as provided in RCW 43.21A.068, any person, corporation or association intending to construct or modify any dam or controlling works for the storage of ten acre feet or more of water, shall before beginning said construction or modification, submit plans and specifications of the same to the department for examination and approval as to its safety. Such plans and specifications shall be submitted in duplicate, one copy of which shall be retained as a public record, by the department, and the other returned with its approval or rejection endorsed thereon. No such dam or controlling works shall be constructed or modified until the same or any modification thereof shall have been approved as to its safety by the department. Any such dam or controlling works constructed or modified in any manner other than in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the department or which shall not be maintained in accordance with the order of the department shall be presumed to be a public nuisance and may be abated in the manner provided by law, and it shall be the duty of the attorney general or prosecuting attorney of the county wherein such dam or controlling works, or

the major portion thereof, is situated to institute abatement proceedings against the owner or owners of such dam or controlling works, whenever he or she is requested to do so by the department.

A metals mining and milling operation regulated under chapter 232, Laws of 1994 is subject to additional dam safety inspection requirements due to the special hazards associated with failure of a tailings pond impoundment. The department shall inspect these impoundments at least quarterly during the project's operation and at least annually thereafter for the postclosure monitoring period in order to ensure the safety of the dam or controlling works. The department shall conduct additional inspections as needed during the construction phase of the mining operation in order to ensure the safe construction of the tailings impoundment.

[1995 c 8 § 6; 1994 c 232 § 20; 1987 c 109 § 91; 1955 c 362 § 1; 1939 c 107 § 1; 1917 c 117 § 36; RRS § 7388. Formerly RCW 90.28.060.] [1954 SLC-RO-18.]

RCW 90.03.360

Controlling works and measuring devices -- Metering of diversions -- Impact on fish stock.

(1) The owner or owners of any water diversion shall maintain, to the satisfaction of the department of ecology, substantial controlling works and a measuring device constructed and maintained to permit accurate measurement and practical regulation of the flow of water diverted. Every owner or manager of a reservoir for the storage of water shall construct and maintain, when required by the department, any measuring device necessary to ascertain the natural flow into and out of said reservoir.

Metering of diversions or measurement by other approved methods shall be required as a condition for all new surface water right permits, and except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, may be required as a condition for all previously existing surface water rights. The department may also require, as a condition for all water rights, metering of diversions, and reports regarding such metered diversions as to the amount of water being diverted. Such reports shall be in a form prescribed by the department.

(2) Where water diversions are from waters in which the salmonid stock status is depressed or critical, as determined by the department of fish and wildlife, or where the volume of water being diverted exceeds one cubic foot per second, the department shall require metering or measurement by other approved methods as a condition for all new and previously existing water rights or claims. The department shall attempt to

integrate the requirements of this subsection into its existing compliance workload priorities, but shall prioritize the requirements of this subsection ahead of the existing compliance workload where a delay may cause the decline of wild salmonids. The department shall notify the department of fish and wildlife of the status of fish screens associated with these diversions.

This subsection (2) shall not apply to diversions for public or private hatcheries or fish rearing facilities if the diverted water is returned directly to the waters from which it was diverted.

[1994 c 264 § 85; 1993 sp.s. c 4 § 12; 1989 c 348 § 6; 1987 c 109 § 92; 1917 c 117 § 37; RRS § 7389. Formerly RCW 90.28.070.]

RCW 90.03.370

Reservoir permits -- Secondary permits -- Underground artificial storage and recovery project standards and rules -- Report to the legislature.

(1) All applications for reservoir permits shall be subject to the provisions of RCW 90.03.250 through 90.03.320. But the party or parties proposing to apply to a beneficial use the water stored in any such reservoir shall also file an application for a permit, to be known as the secondary permit, which shall be in compliance with the provisions of RCW 90.03.250 through 90.03.320. Such secondary application shall refer to such reservoir as its source of water supply and shall show documentary evidence that an agreement has been entered into with the owners of the reservoir for a permanent and sufficient interest in said reservoir to impound enough water for the purposes set forth in said application. When the beneficial use has been completed and perfected under the secondary permit, the department shall take the proof of the water users under such permit and the final certificate of appropriation shall refer to both the ditch and works described in the secondary permit and the reservoir described in the primary permit.

(2)(a) For the purposes of this section, "reservoir" includes, in addition to any surface reservoir, any naturally occurring underground geological formation where water is collected and stored for subsequent use as part of an underground artificial storage and recovery project. To qualify for issuance of a reservoir permit an underground geological formation must meet standards for review and mitigation of adverse impacts identified, for the following issues:

- (i) Aquifer vulnerability and hydraulic continuity;
- (ii) Potential impairment of existing water rights;
- (iii) Geotechnical impacts and aquifer boundaries and characteristics;

(iv) Chemical compatibility of surface waters and ground water;

(v) Recharge and recovery treatment requirements;

(vi) System operation;

(vii) Water rights and ownership of water stored for recovery; and

(viii) Environmental impacts.

(b) Standards for review and standards for mitigation of adverse impacts for an underground artificial storage and recovery project shall be established by the department by rule.

Notwithstanding the provisions of [RCW 90.03.250](#) through 90.03.320, analysis of each underground artificial storage and recovery project and each underground geological formation for which an applicant seeks the status of a reservoir shall be through applicant-initiated studies reviewed by the department.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "underground artificial storage and recovery project" means any project in which it is intended to artificially store water in the ground through injection, surface spreading and infiltration, or other department-approved method, and to make subsequent use of the stored water. However, (a) this subsection does not apply to irrigation return flow, or to operational and seepage losses that occur during the irrigation of land, or to water that is artificially stored due to the construction, operation, or maintenance of an irrigation district project, or to projects involving water reclaimed in accordance with [chapter 90.46 RCW](#); and (b) [RCW 90.44.130](#) applies to those instances of claimed artificial recharge occurring due to the construction, operation, or maintenance of an irrigation district project or operational and seepage losses that occur during the irrigation of land, as well as other forms of claimed artificial recharge already existing at the time a ground water subarea is established.

(4) Nothing in chapter 98, Laws of 2000 changes the requirements of existing law governing issuance of permits to appropriate or withdraw the waters of the state.

(5) The department shall report to the legislature by December 31, 2001, on the standards for review and standards for mitigation developed under subsection (3) of this section and on the status of any applications that have been filed with the department for underground artificial storage and recovery projects by that date.

[2000 c 98 § 3; 1987 c 109 § 93; 1917 c 117 § 38; RRS § 7390. Formerly [RCW 90.28.080](#).]

RCW 90.44.035
Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter:

- (1) "Department" means the department of ecology;
- (2) "Director" means the director of ecology;
- (3) "Ground waters" means all waters that exist beneath the land surface or beneath the bed of any stream, lake or reservoir, or other body of surface water within the boundaries of this state, whatever may be the geological formation or structure in which such water stands or flows, percolates or otherwise moves. There is a recognized distinction between natural ground water and artificially stored ground water;
- (4) "Natural ground water" means water that exists in underground storage owing wholly to natural processes;
- (5) "Artificially stored ground water" means water that is made available in underground storage artificially, either intentionally, or incidentally to irrigation and that otherwise would have been dissipated by natural processes; and
- (6) "Underground artificial storage and recovery project" means any project in which it is intended to artificially store water in the ground through injection, surface spreading and infiltration, or other department-approved method, and to make subsequent use of the stored water. However, (a) this subsection does not apply to irrigation return flow, or to operational and seepage losses that occur during the irrigation of land, or to water that is artificially stored due to the construction, operation, or maintenance of an irrigation district project, or to projects involving water reclaimed in accordance with [chapter 90.46 RCW](#); and (b) [RCW 90.44.130](#) applies to those instances of claimed artificial recharge occurring due to the construction, operation, or maintenance of an irrigation district project or operational and seepage losses that occur during the irrigation of land, as well as other forms of claimed artificial recharge already existing at the time a ground water subarea is established.

[2000 c 98 § 2; 1987 c 109 § 107; 1973 c 94 § 2; 1945 c 263 § 3; RRS § 7400-3. Formerly [RCW 90.44.010](#).]

RCW 90.03.470

Schedule of fees.

Except as otherwise provided in subsection (15) of this section, the following fees shall be collected by the department in advance:

- (1) For the examination of an application for permit to appropriate water or on application to change point of diversion, withdrawal, purpose or place of use, a minimum of ten dollars, to be paid with the application. For each second foot between one and five hundred second feet, two dollars per second foot; for each second foot between five hundred and two thousand

second feet, fifty cents per second foot; and for each second foot in excess thereof, twenty cents per second foot. For each acre foot of storage up to and including one hundred thousand acre feet, one cent per acre foot, and for each acre foot in excess thereof, one-fifth cent per acre foot. The ten dollar fee payable with the application shall be a credit to that amount whenever the fee for direct diversion or storage totals more than ten dollars under the above schedule and in such case the further fee due shall be the total computed amount less ten dollars.

(2) - (7) (MATERIAL OMITTED)

(8) For the inspection of any hydraulic works to insure safety to life and property, the actual cost of the inspection, including the expense incident thereto.

(9) For the examination of plans and specifications as to safety of controlling works for storage of ten acre feet or more of water, a minimum fee of ten dollars, or the actual cost.

RCW 90.16.050

Schedule of fees for claimants of water power.

Every person, firm, private or municipal corporation, or association hereinafter called "claimant", claiming the right to the use of water within or bordering upon the state of Washington for power development, shall on or before the first day of July, 1929, and on or before the first day of January of each year thereafter pay to the state of Washington in advance an annual license fee, based upon the theoretical water power claimed under each and every separate claim to water according to the following schedule:

For projects in operation: For each and every theoretical horsepower claimed up to and including one thousand horsepower, at the rate of ten cents per horsepower; for each and every theoretical horsepower in excess of one thousand horsepower, up to and including ten thousand horsepower, at the rate of two cents per horsepower; for each and every theoretical horsepower in excess of ten thousand horsepower, at the rate of one cent per horsepower.

For undeveloped projects, the fee shall be at one-half the rates specified for projects in operation; for projects partly developed and in operation the fees paid on that portion of any project that shall have been developed and in operation shall be the full annual license fee above specified for projects in operation, and for the remainder of the power claimed under such project the fees shall be the same as for undeveloped projects. PROVIDED, That upon the filing of statement, as hereinafter required, by the United States or the state claiming the right to the use of water to any extent for the generation of power,

or any other claimant to the use of water for the generation of fifty horsepower, or less, shall be exempted from the payment of all fees hereinafter required; and PROVIDED FURTHER, That any irrigation district or other municipal subdivision of the state, developing power chiefly for use in pumping of water for irrigation, may upon the filing of a statement, showing the amount of power used for irrigation pumping, be exempted to the extent of the power so used from the payment of the annual license fee herein provided for.
[1929 c 105 § 1; RRS § 11575-1.]

RCW 90.16.060

Schedule of fees for claimants of water power -- Statement of claim -- Penalties -- Excessive claim -- Abandonment.

The license fee herein required shall be paid in advance to the state department of ecology and shall be accompanied by written statement, showing the extent of the claim. Said statement shall set forth the name and address of the claimant, the name of the stream from which the water is appropriated or claimed for power development, a description of the forty acres or smallest legal subdivision in which the point of diversion and point of return are located, the date of the right as claimed, the maximum amount of water claimed, expressed in cubic feet per second of time, the total average fall utilized under such claim, the manner of developing power and the use to which the power is applied. If the regular flow is supplemented by water stored in a reservoir, the location of such reservoir, its capacity in acre feet, and the stream from which it is filled and fed, should be given, also the date of the right as claimed for storage purposes.

Should any claimant fail or neglect to file such statement within the time specified, or fail or neglect to pay such fees within the time specified, the fees due and payable shall be at the schedule rates set out in RCW 90.16.050, increased twenty-five percent, and the state shall have preference lien therefor, with interest at the rate of ten percent per annum from the date of delinquency, upon the property of claimant used or necessary for use in the development of the right or claim, together with any improvements erected thereon for such development, and upon request from the director of ecology the attorney general shall proceed to foreclose the lien, and collect the amount due, as herein provided, in the same manner as other liens for general state and county taxes on real property are foreclosed.

The filing of a claim to water in excess of the amount to which the claimant is legally entitled shall not operate to vest in such claimant any right to the use of such excess water, nor shall the payment of the annual license fees, provided for

herein, operate to vest in any claimant any right to the use of such water beyond the amount to which claimant is legally entitled. The filing of such claim, or claims to water shall be conclusive evidence of abandonment by the claimant of all right to water for power purposes not covered by the claim, or claims, as filed; and the failure to file statement and pay the fees, as herein required, for any power site or claim of power rights on account of riparian ownership within two years after June 12, 1929, shall be conclusive evidence of abandonment. The amount of the theoretical horsepower upon which fees shall be paid shall be computed by multiplying the maximum amount of water claimed, expressed in cubic feet per second of time, by the average fall utilized, expressed in feet, and dividing the product by 8.8. [1988 c 127 § 78; 1929 c 105 § 2; RRS § 11575-2. Formerly RCW 90.16.060, 90.16.070 and 90.16.080.]

RCW 90.54.170

Electric generation facility -- Evaluation of application to appropriate water.

In addition to other requirements of this chapter, when the proposed water resource development project involves a new water supply combined with an electric generation facility where such electricity generated may be sold to an entity authorized by law to distribute electricity, the department shall evaluate and utilize, in connection with any application to appropriate water pursuant to the water code, chapter 90.03 RCW, sufficient information furnished by the project applicant regarding the need for the project, alternative means of serving the purposes of the project, the cumulative effects of the project and similar projects that are built, under construction or permitted in the relevant river basin or basins, the impact, if any, on flood control plans and an estimate of the impact, if any, of the sale of the project's electricity on the rates of utility customers of the Bonneville power administration. Such information shall be furnished at the project applicant's own cost and expense.

[1985 c 444 § 6.]

FUNDING

RCW 43.83B.020

General obligation bonds -- Authorized -- Issuance, sale, terms -- Appropriation required.

For the purpose of providing funds for the planning, acquisition, construction, and improvement of water supply facilities within the state, the state finance committee is authorized to issue general obligation bonds of the state of Washington in the sum of seventy-five million dollars or so much thereof as may be required to finance the improvements defined in this chapter and all costs incidental thereto. These bonds shall be paid and discharged within twenty years of the date of issuance or within thirty years should Article VIII of the Constitution of the state of Washington be amended to permit such longer term. No bonds authorized by this chapter shall be offered for sale without prior legislative appropriation of the proceeds of such bonds to be sold.

[1977 ex.s. c 242 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 128 § 2.]

RCW 43.83B.050

Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the term "water supply facilities" shall mean municipal, industrial, and agricultural water supply and distribution systems including, but not limited to, all equipment, utilities, structures, real property, and interests in and improvements on real property, necessary for or incidental to the acquisition, construction, installation, or use of any municipal, industrial, or agricultural water supply or distribution system.

As used in this chapter, the term "public body" means the state of Washington, or any agency, political subdivision, taxing district, or municipal corporation thereof, a board of joint control, an agency of the federal government, and those Indian tribes now or hereafter recognized as such by the federal government for participation in the federal land and water conservation program and which may constitutionally receive grants or loans from the state of Washington.

[1996 c 320 § 20; 1975 c 18 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 128 § 5.]

RCW 43.83B.210

Loans or grants from department of ecology -- Authorized -- Limitations.

The department of ecology is authorized to make loans or grants or combinations thereof from funds under RCW 43.83B.010 through 43.83B.110 to eligible public bodies as defined in RCW 43.83B.050 for rehabilitation or betterment of agricultural water supply facilities, and/or construction of agricultural

water supply facilities required to develop new irrigated lands. The department of ecology may make such loans or grants or combinations thereof as matching funds in any case where federal, local, or other funds have been made available on a matching basis. A loan or combination loan and grant shall not exceed fifty percent of the approved eligible project cost for any single proposed project. Any grant or grant portion of a combination loan and grant from funds under RCW 43.83B.010 through 43.83B.110 for any single proposed project shall not exceed fifteen percent of the eligible project costs: PROVIDED, That the fifteen percent limitation established herein shall not be applicable to project commitments which the director or deputy director of the state department of ecology made to the bureau of reclamation of the United States department of interior for providing state funding at thirty-five percent of project costs during the period between August 1, 1974, and June 30, 1975.

[1989 c 171 § 7; 1988 c 46 § 1; 1987 c 343 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 1 § 11; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 36 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 295 § 3.]

RCW 43.99E.015

General obligation bonds -- Authorized -- Issuance, sale, terms -- Appropriation required.

For the purpose of providing funds for the planning, acquisition, construction, and improvement of water supply facilities within the state, the state finance committee is authorized to issue general obligation bonds of the state of Washington in the sum of sixty-five million dollars, or so much thereof as may be required, to finance the improvements defined in this chapter and all costs incidental thereto. These bonds shall be paid and discharged within thirty years of the date of issuance in accordance with Article VIII, section 1 of the state Constitution. No bonds authorized by this chapter may be offered for sale without prior legislative appropriation of the proceeds of the bonds to be sold.

[1990 1st ex.s. c 15 § 8. Prior: 1989 1st ex.s. c 14 § 11; 1989 c 136 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 234 § 2.]

RCW 43.99E.030

Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the term "water supply facilities" means domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural (and any associated fishery, recreational, or other beneficial use) water supply or distribution systems including but not limited to all equipment, utilities, structures, real property, and interests in and improvements on real property necessary for or incidental to the acquisition, construction, installation, or use of any such water supply or distribution system.

As used in this chapter, the term "public body" means the state of Washington or any agency, political subdivision, taxing district, or municipal or public corporation thereof; a board of joint control; an agency of the federal government; and those Indian tribes which may constitutionally receive grants or loans from the state of Washington.

[1996 c 320 § 21; 1979 ex.s. c 234 § 5.]

RCW 43.83B.300

Legislative findings -- General obligation bonds authorized -- Issuance, terms -- Appropriation required.

The legislature finds that the fundamentals of water resource policy in this state must be reviewed by the legislature to ensure that the water resources of the state are protected and fully utilized for the greatest benefit to the people of the state of Washington. The legislature further finds that it is necessary to provide the department of ecology with emergency powers to authorize withdrawals of public surface and ground waters, including dead storage within reservoirs, on a temporary basis, and construction of facilities in relation thereto, in order to alleviate emergency water supply conditions arising from the drought forecast for the state of Washington during 1977 and during 1987 through 1989.

The legislature further finds that there is a continuing water supply shortage in many areas of the state and that there is an urgent need to assure the survival of irrigated crops and of the state's fisheries.

The legislature further finds that in addition to water storage facilities or other augmentation programs, improved efficiency of water use could provide an important new supply of water in many parts of the state with which to meet future water needs and that improved efficiency of water use should receive greater emphasis in the management of the state's water resources.

In order to study the fundamentals of water resource policy of the state and to provide needed moneys for the planning, acquisition, construction, and improvement of water supply facilities and for other appropriate measures to assure the survival of irrigated crops and/or the state's fisheries to alleviate emergency water supply conditions arising from droughts occurring from time to time in the state of Washington, and to carry out a comprehensive water use efficiency study for the state of Washington, the state finance committee is authorized to issue general obligation bonds of the state of Washington in the sum of eighteen million dollars, or so much thereof as may be required to finance such projects, and all costs incidental thereto. No bonds authorized by this section

and [RCW 43.83B.360](#) through 43.83B.375 shall be offered for sale without prior legislative appropriation, and these bonds shall be paid and discharged within thirty years of the date of issuance in accordance with Article VIII, section 1 of the state Constitution.

[1988 c 47 § 1; 1988 c 46 § 2; 1988 c 45 § 1; 1987 c 343 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 263 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 1 § 1.]

RCW 43.83B.380

Appropriations to department of health -- Authorized projects -- Conditions.

There is hereby appropriated to the department of health the sum of nine million seven hundred thirty-seven thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the biennium ending June 30, 1977, from the general fund -- state and local improvements revolving account -- water supply facilities for the purposes authorized in [*RCW 43.83B.300](#) through 43.83B.345 and 43.83B.210 as now or hereafter amended relating to the emergency water conditions arising from the drought forecast for the summer and fall of 1977 affecting municipal and industrial water supply distribution facilities. Prior to the expenditure of funds for projects approved by the department, the department shall file a listing of the approved projects with the senate ways and means committee and the house appropriations committee.

(2) There is hereby appropriated to the department of health the sum of five million three hundred twenty-seven thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the biennium ending June 30, 1977, from the general fund -- state and local improvements revolving account -- water supply facilities to be expended for municipal and industrial water supply and distribution facility projects for which applications are in progress on March 25, 1977 and have arisen from the drought forecast for the summer and fall of 1977. Prior to the expenditure of funds for projects approved by the department, the department shall file a listing of the approved projects with the senate ways and means committee and the house appropriations committee.

The municipal and industrial water supply and distribution facilities receiving funds from the appropriations contained in this section shall comply with the eligible costs criteria, health and design standards, and contract performance requirements of the municipal and industrial funding program under [chapter 43.83B RCW](#). All projects shall be evaluated by applying the said chapter's evaluation and prioritization criteria to insure that only projects related to water shortage problems receive funding. The projects funded shall be limited to those projects providing interties with adjacent utilities,

an expanded source of supply, conservation projects which will conserve or maximize efficiency of the existing supply, or a new source of supply. No obligation to provide a grant for a project authorized under this section shall be incurred after June 30, 1977.

[1991 c 3 § 300; 1977 ex.s. c 1 § 17.]

Session Laws of 1995, 2nd Special Session

Chapter 16, Section 302. FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Referendum 38 water supply facilities (74-2-006)

\$2,500,000 of the state and local improvements revolving account is provided solely for funding the state's cost share in the water conservation demonstration project--Yakima river reregulation reservoir.

Reappropriation:

LIRA, Water Sup Fac--State\$9,374,371

Appropriation:

LIRA, Water Sup Fac--State\$1,000,000

Prior Biennia (Expenditures) \$5,738,929

Future Biennia (Projected Costs)\$...20,712,800

TOTAL\$...36,826,100

[NOTE: In addition to the above, Session Laws of 1983, First Executive Session, Chapter 18, appropriated \$14.5 million for Ref. 38 storage projects.]

Session Laws 1998 Legislative Session

Chapter 346, Section 303

(3) \$300,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 1998 is provided solely for the department to conduct a preconstruction analysis of Pine Hollow, located near the communities of Wiley City and Tampico in Yakima county, regarding its suitability as a site for the construction of a retainment dam and water storage reservoir and the reservoir site's potential to enhance and maintain anadromous fish and other aquatic life and agriculture. The analysis shall include, but is not limited to, a hydrologic and water rights assessment of the Ahtanum Creek watershed to determine water availability to Pine Hollow, an analysis of the geology and hydrology of the site and appropriate dam design and dynamics, its impact on water-related issues, and on Yakama Indian Nation and other waterrights. Using amounts appropriated in this section and the associated local match, the department shall conduct portions of

its analysis through contracts with private entities and through contracts with, or by providing grant moneys to, the Yakama Indian Nation and other public entities, which may include other state agencies, irrigation districts local to the area, cities, Yakima county, and federal agencies. The department shall consult with stakeholders before conducting this preconstruction analysis. The analysis shall be completed by June 30, 1999. The amount provided in this subsection is contingent upon the provision of an equal cash match from the Ahtanum irrigation district, and if such a match is not received the amount provided in this subsection shall lapse.

Session Laws 2000 2nd Special Legislative Session
Chapter 1, Section 301

(24) \$300,000 of the state drought preparedness account--state appropriation for fiscal year 2001 is provided solely for a preconstruction and feasibility analysis of the Roza irrigation district off-stream storage project at Washout canyon. Moneys may be expended from the amount provided in this subsection only to the extent that matching funds in cash and in-kind contributions are provided by the Roza irrigation district. If this match is not provided by the district, the amount provided in this subsection shall lapse.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

RCW 43.21A.450

Control of outflow and level of Lake Osoyoos -- Lake Osoyoos International Water Control Structure authorized.

(1) The legislature recognizes the need for the state of Washington to implement an understanding reached with the Province of British Columbia in relation to a joint venture with British Columbia for controlling the outflow and level of Lake Osoyoos, an international lake, and in connection therewith to replace an existing lake control structure on the Okanogan river in Washington state which has been classified as deteriorated and unsafe.

(2) For the purpose of implementing subsection (1) of this section, the department of ecology may acquire, design, construct, own, operate, and maintain a project to be known as the Lake Osoyoos International Water Control Structure and may acquire all real property interests necessary thereto by purchase, grant, gift, or eminent domain; provided that the authority of eminent domain as granted to the department under this section is limited to acquiring property necessary for access to the control structure, location of abutments for the control structure, and flowage easements if necessary.

(3) The department may accept and administer grants or gifts from any source for the purpose of carrying out subsection (2) of this section.

(4) The department may exercise its powers under subsection (2) of this section directly or through contracts, except that it may not delegate its authority of eminent domain. The department may also enter into agreements with any public or municipal corporation with respect to operation and maintenance of the project authorized under subsection (2) of this section. [1985 c 27 § 1; 1982 c 76 § 1.]

RCW 75.20.110

Columbia river anadromous fish sanctuary -- Restrictions.

(1) Except for the north fork of the Lewis river and the White Salmon river, all streams and rivers tributary to the Columbia river downstream from McNary dam are established as an anadromous fish sanctuary. This sanctuary is created to preserve and develop the food fish and game fish resources in these streams and rivers and to protect them against undue industrial encroachment.

(2) Within the sanctuary area:

(a) The department shall not issue hydraulic project approval to construct a dam greater than twenty-five feet high

within the migration range of anadromous fish as determined by the department.

(b) A person shall not divert water from rivers and streams in quantities that will reduce the respective stream flow below the annual average low flow, based upon data published in United States geological survey reports.

(3) The commission may acquire and abate a dam or other obstruction, or acquire any water right vested on a sanctuary stream or river, which is in conflict with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Subsection (2)(a) of this section does not apply to the sediment retention structure to be built on the North Fork Toutle river by the United States army corps of engineers. [1998 c 190 § 89; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 27 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 36; 1988 c 36 § 36; 1985 c 307 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 76; 1961 c 4 § 1; Initiative Measure No. 25, approved November 8, 1960.]

NOT INCLUDED IN FINAL TASK FORCE HANDOUT

RCW 43.20.230

Water resource planning -- Procedures, criteria, technical assistance.

Consistent with the water resource planning process of the department of ecology, the department of health shall:

(1) Develop procedures and guidelines relating to water use efficiency, as defined in *section 4(3), chapter 348, Laws of 1989, to be included in the development and approval of cost-efficient water system plans required under [RCW 43.20.050](#);

(2) Develop criteria, with input from technical experts, with the objective of encouraging the cost-effective reuse of greywater and other water recycling practices, consistent with protection of public health and water quality;

(3) Provide advice and technical assistance upon request in the development of water use efficiency plans; and

(4) Provide advice and technical assistance on request for development of model conservation rate structures for public water systems. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section are subject to the availability of funding.

[1993 sp.s. c 4 § 9; 1989 c 348 § 12.]

RCW 43.20.235

Water conservation -- Water delivery rate structures.

Water purveyors required to develop a water system plan pursuant to [RCW 43.20.230](#) shall evaluate the feasibility of adopting and implementing water delivery rate structures that encourage water conservation. This information shall be included in water system plans submitted to the department of health for approval after July 1, 1993. The department shall evaluate the following:

(1) Rate structures currently used by public water systems in Washington; and

(2) Economic and institutional constraints to implementing conservation rate structures.

[1998 c 245 § 58; 1993 sp.s. c 4 § 10.]

RCW 70.116.010

Legislative declaration.

The legislature hereby finds that an adequate supply of potable water for domestic, commercial, and industrial use is vital to the health and well-being of the people of the state. Readily available water for use in public water systems is limited and should be developed and used efficiently with a minimum of loss or waste.

In order to maximize efficient and effective development of the state's public water supply systems, the department of health

shall assist water purveyors by providing a procedure to coordinate the planning of the public water supply systems. [1991 c 3 § 365; 1977 ex.s. c 142 § 1.]

RCW 70.116.040

**Critical water supply service area -- Designation --
Establishment or amendment of external boundaries -- Procedures.**

(1) The secretary and the appropriate local planning agencies and purveyors, shall study geographical areas where water supply problems related to uncoordinated planning, inadequate water quality or unreliable service appear to exist. If the results of the study indicate that such water supply problems do exist, the secretary or the county legislative authority shall designate the area involved as being a critical water supply service area, consult with the appropriate local planning agencies and purveyors, and appoint a committee of not less than three representatives therefrom solely for the purpose of establishing the proposed external boundaries of the critical water supply service area. The committee shall include a representative from each purveyor serving more than fifty customers, the county legislative authority, county planning agency, and health agencies. Such proposed boundaries shall be established within six months of the appointment of the committee.

During the six month period following the establishment of the proposed external boundaries of the critical water supply services areas, the county legislative authority shall conduct public hearings on the proposed boundaries and shall modify or ratify the proposed boundaries in accordance with the findings of the public hearings. The boundaries shall reflect the existing land usage, and permitted densities in county plans, ordinances, and/or growth policies. If the proposed boundaries are not modified during the six month period, the proposed boundaries shall be automatically ratified and be the critical water supply service area.

After establishment of the external boundaries of the critical water supply service area, no new public water systems may be approved within the boundary area unless an existing water purveyor is unable to provide water service.

(2) At the time a critical water supply service area is established, the external boundaries for such area shall not include any fractional part of a purveyor's existing contiguous service area.

(3) The external boundaries of the critical water supply service area may be amended in accordance with procedures prescribed in subsection (1) of this section for the establishment of the critical water supply service areas when

such amendment is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

[1977 ex.s. c 142 § 4.]

RCW 90.42.050

Guidelines governing trust water rights -- Submission of guidelines to joint select committee.

The department, in cooperation with federally recognized Indian tribes, local governments, state agencies, and other interested parties, shall establish guidelines by July 1, 1992, governing the acquisition, administration, and management of trust water rights. The guidelines shall address at a minimum the following:

- (1) Methods for determining the net water savings resulting from water conservation projects or programs carried out in accordance with this chapter, and other factors to be considered in determining the quantity or value of water available for potential designation as a trust water right;
- (2) Criteria for determining the portion of net water savings to be conveyed to the state under this chapter;
- (3) Criteria for prioritizing water conservation projects;
- (4) A description of potential public benefits that will affect consideration for state financial assistance in [RCW 90.42.030](#);
- (5) Procedures for providing notification to potentially interested parties;
- (6) Criteria for the assignment of uses of trust water rights acquired in areas of the state not addressed in a regional water resource plan or critical area agreement; and
- (7) Contracting procedures and other procedures not specifically addressed in this section.

These guidelines shall be submitted to the joint select committee on water resource policy before adoption.

[1991 c 347 § 9.]

NOTES:

Purposes -- 1991 c 347: See note following [RCW 90.42.005](#).